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REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, HELD AT PORTLAND, ME., AUGUST 26, 27 AND 28, 1907. Baltimore, Md.: The Lord Baltimore Press. 1907. Pp. 1266.

The Annual Report of the American Bar Association is, as usual, full of interest, primarily because in the annual address of the president there is embodied a concise statement of the progress of legislation during the past year. In addition to this the routine reports of the standing committees disclose the effect of the concerted opinion of the profession as evidenced *inter alia* by the legislation adopted by the various States upon the recommendation of the association. Particularly suggestive in this respect is the address of the president of the Conference on Uniform State Laws. Although, as therein pointed out, the past year was not as memorable in this movement as the one before, yet it is evident from the report that there is a decided interest in the subject of uniform laws which is being made manifest not only by the demands of the State Bar Association, but also by the laws already enacted.

The most noteworthy of the addresses delivered before the convention are those of the Hon. James Bryce on "The Influence of National Character and Historical Environment on the Development of the Common Law," and of the Hon. Charles A. Prouty on "A Fundamental Defect in the Act to Regulate Commerce." In the latter paper there is a careful analysis of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, from which the author draws the conclusion that unless the executive and judicial functions now exercised by the commission are separated and the former entrusted to a new Department of Commerce, there is a grave reason to apprehend that the commission "will either become remiss in its executive duties, or will, in the zeal of those, become unfitted for the dispassionate performance of its judicial functions." Although this tendency has not yet been manifest in the work of the present commission, yet there is undoubtedly an unwise combination of two distinctive classes of work which now must be handled by one commission. In addition to this fact it is becoming more and more clear that the commission is overloaded with work, so that some lightening of its burdens must be secured in the near future to enable it to fulfill with promptness the difficult duties entrusted to it.

R. D. J.